A

Full and cleare ANSWER to a falſe and ſcandalous Paper, entituled;

The humble Remonſtrance of the grievances of all his Majeſties Poſts of England, *together with Carriers, Waggoners, &c.*

THe great and many conveniences that have come to this Kingdome, by erecting of a Letter-office, both in reſpect of Trade and correſpondencie, are better knowne to everie particular perſon by experience than expreſt.

Whereby any man may with ſafetie and ſecuritie ſend letters into any part of this Kingdome, and receive an anſwer within five dayes. (A benefit not knowne to this Kingdome before the erection of the ſaid Office.) If any man know a more ſpeedy or ſafe way of ſending their letters, or doe better like the old way, by Carriers or Foot-Poſts, ſuch are left to their free libertie, none are compelled to ſend their letters this way, none reſtrained from uſing the carriage of letters, as formerly they did: This is all that is deſired, or clai-

1642?

med by that Patent, whereby the Letter-office is erected; If this be a Monopoly, it is moſt humbly deſired, the High and Honourable Court of Parliament may jndge, whoſe juſtice hath ever been imp'ored, nevet declined; or the Judges of the Kingdome, and not the noyſe and clamour of Poſts, Carriers, Waggoners, &c.

The firſt attempt that ever was made of carrying letters this way, was by one *Iude*, and that onely betweene London end Plymouth, who carried them in fourteene dayes, as the Carriers of Exeter did. *Iude* was diſplaced by an order of the Councell Table, and the Poſts put in, who continued it in the ſame way once in fourteene dayes, whereas now an anſwer may be had once in five dayes, there is not ſo much as a colour of any attempt of carrying letters this way in any other Rode in England, but Plymouth, untill it was ſetled by *Thomas Witherings*, who when hee did firſt undertake this way, his Majeſtie and the Lords of the Councell, who had formerly taken away the place from *Iude*, and ſetled the Poſts of Plymouth, conſidering the many advantages that might come to the Kingdome, by this ſpeedy way of intelligence, did by the ſame power they were placed, remove them againe, and by a Proclamation dated about July 1635. his Majeſtie did expreſſe his pleaſure, that *Thomas Witherings* ſhould have the carriage of the ſaid letters, who would ſettle it in a better and more ſpeedy courſe: whereupon he undertook the ſaid work, and for a long time, after his ſaid undertaking, it coſt him ſome weeks 20. l. 30. l. 40. l. more than hee received, to the great weakening and hazard of the ruine of his eſtate. It is verie true, that untill he had his patent

tent of his Office granted unto him for his life, which was in the yeare 1637. he did in ſome places lay horſes of his owne, in others he did make uſe of the ordinarie Poſt-horſes, and becauſe he deſired quick diſpatch, hee paid them for a guide and a horſe to carrie the male 6.d. *per* mile, after not conceiving a guide neceſſarie, he made only uſe of one horſe, and paid 3. d. *per* mile.

Surely yet there is neither injurie nor injuſtice done to the Poſts; for Plymouth Poſts, the ſame power that placed them, removed them: for the other Poſts, they have 3. d. *per* mile, which is more than ordinarie pay. But the objection which ſeemes to carrie the greateſt ſhew, or colour of probabilitie with it is; That the Poſt-maſters had for formerly 4000. l. *per annum* fee, onely for carrying his Majeſties packets, that *Witherings* hath reduced this to 2053. l. *per annum*, and yet puts a greater burthen upon them, by carrying his male; hath diſplaced many of them received 4000. l. for Poſt-places.

If this be but clearly underſtood, there will bee no colour of complaint againſt *Witherings*, either of injuſtice or oppreſſion: The poſts, time out of mind, have been placed and removed by the King, at his will and pleaſure, and their fees encreaſed or leſſened, as the uſe and neceſſitie of their ſervice required: So as if his Majeſtie ſhall diſcharge all his poſts, or any in ſuch Roads, or ſhall retrench their wages to halfe the proportion, it is no injuſtice, if it be not ſufficient to maintaine them, they are not forced to doe the ſervice: But it ſeemes notwithſtanding this abatement of wages, it is yet gainfull, out of their owne ſhewing, elſe *Witherings* could never have received 4000. l. for poſts places as they pretend. But bee they gaine or loſſe, how

doth it concerne Maſter *Witherings* other than thus: the King agrees with Maſter *Witherings*, that the Poſts ſhall carrie his male of letters, Maſter *Witherings* doth agree with his Majeſtie, to pay to the ſeverall Poſts according to a Reglement made in writing ſuch ſums, accordingly he hath conſtantly paid theſe ſums. If theſe proportions be not a ſufficient reward for their ſervice, it is not to bee doubted, but if this ſhall bee made appeare unto his Majeſtie by petition, or otherwiſe, but that care will be had of them: but is there the leaſt colour, why any man ſhould bee demanded from *Witherings*, who undertook not to ſatisfie all the Poſts, but only to pay ſuch ſums according to a Reglement, which comes 2053. l. *per annum*, and the carriage of his maile of letters, according to the ordinarie and common price of 2. d. ob. *per* mile, would not coſt above 700. l. *per annum*. And it hath been acknowledged by moſt of the Poſts, that Maſter *Witherings* in this, did a verie good ſervice to the Poſts, for now they were conſtantly paid; whereas they ſay there were great arrears upon them before this undertakings. And whatever is pretended, their paines is rather leſſe than more, ſince the carriage of the maile; for they are bound to carrie his Majeſties packets, when ever they come. And it ſeldome happeneth, but there are one, two, or more packets goes along with the maile, which might have been carried, if the maile had not gone: and the Secretaries of State (if the buſineſſe be not verie preſſing) do many times ſtay a day or two, untill the maile goe, which otherwiſe muſt have gone by Expreſſes, and ſo the burthen is not ſo great as is pretended; for it is verie certaine, that they muſt go as often, if not oftner, if they did not carrie the maile.

Maſter

Maſter *Witherings* never diſplaced any of the Poſts, neither received he one penny to his own uſe for Poſt-places, the place of Poſtmaſter of *England* was conferred upon the Secretaries of Eſtate, who obſerving ancient Orders did diſplace many that were not qualified accordingly, as ſuch as did not live upon their Places, or by reaſon of infancy, or other diſabilities did not or are not fit to exerciſe their Places in perſon; but Maſter *Witherings* ſaith, that few or none to his knowledge were put out of their Places, though uncapable; but he that came in did make them ſome ſatisfaction: and Maſter *Witherings* ſaith, that he out of his own purſe hath paid money to bring divers of them into their Places, and in particular he paid 60.l. for *Edward Hutchins* place, which is now ſo far from being acknowledged as a favour, as is turned upon him as a crime by an ungrateſull perſon.

As concerning the 1500.l. which is moſt falſly and ſcandalouſly pretended was given to the Secretaries of Eſtate for the ſupporting and ſecuring of this Monopoly Patent, this ſince the ſequeſtration of the ſaid Office is ſaid to be paid by Maſter *Burlemache* to the Poſtmaſters.

This Office in *June* 1637. was granted to Maſter *Witherings* for life, and whileſt it was a charge unto him (as at the firſt it was, and whileſt the ſaid Office was a ſettling, which by the care, induſtry, and charge of the ſaid Maſter *Witherings* was ſettled as now it is, and cannot for the eaſe of the Subject be ſettled in any better manner, he enjoyed this Office, but when this Office was fully ſettled, and it began to be a benefit, this Office was by a hand of power without hearing the ſaid

Witherings, nay without the least crime either proved or objected against the said Master *Witherings* sequestred into the hands of *Burlemache* a stranger, borne a man not able to satisfie his own debts, and against whom a Commission of Bankrupts hath issued, and therefore it is conceived a man neither fit to execute that Place, nor able to make satisfaction, if it shall be adjudged this Place hath been sequestred against Law and Justice, and that he shall be put to account for such summes as he hath received. This Place was not taken from Master *Witherings* because it was a Monopoly or grievous to the People, for certainly then it would not have been executed in the very same way, nay worse than it was before the sequestration, for the very Proclamation that issued out upon the sequestration, whereby every one was to bring their Letters to *Burlemache*, makes the execution of the place in M. *Witherings* a president for *Burlemache*, and saith that it shall be executed in the very same way, and that nothing but the Place shall be altered, so as it is now no Monopoly in *Burlemaches* hands, nor any ones else, it is onely a Monopoly in Master *Witherings*, and onely during the time that he executed the place in the judgement and opinion of these men: but *Burlemache* hath been very liberall of Master *Witherings* Office to the postmaster, he hath allowed them 1500.l. more than ever Master *Witherings* did: Envy and Malice cannot say but Master *Witherings* paid all such monies unto the posts during all the time he enjoyed the said Office as by covenant and agreement he was bound to pay, and what reason can there be imagined that *Burlemache* before any judgement or any other legall proceeding who cannot pretend the least

leaſt colour of claime nor intereſt in the ſaid Office but is onely a perſon truſted with the ſaid Office (at the beſt) to account for the profits received to ſuch as have right thereunto, ſhould without the conſent of Maſter *Witherings* pay out of the ſaid Office 1500.l. *per annum*, more than formerly was paid, or by agreemeat is due, unleſſe it be to animate the Poſts, and to foment complaints againſt Maſter *Witherings*, to the end he may the longer continue the ſaid Office in his hands, and this is the rather to be beleeved; becauſe thoſe that are the greateſt proſecutours in this cauſe againſt Maſter *Witherings* have had very large and great penſions and additions to their former wages out of this Office, as 10.s. *per diem* to *Edward Hutchins*, and 5.s. *per diem* to *Caſtlon*.

M. *Witherings* ſaith, that he beleeves there were great arreares due to the Poſts before his undertaking, and that if any truth could come from thoſe perſons, they would acknowledge that Maſter *Witherings* hath with all the induſtry and care that was poſſible, and withall the power of friends he could make, laboured to procure them their arreares, and what monies he could get he did faithfully and honeſtly pay unto them without expectation of one farthing for his paines; nay, he can fully prove and manifeſt that he hath paid good ſummes of his own monies to them that he never as yet received from his Majeſty. This ſequeſtration is ſo prejudiciall to his Majeſties ſervice and intereſt, and the good and benefit of the Poſts that they are now in arrear of their wages ſince the ſequeſtration into *Burlimaches* hands 2000.l. and he no wayes able to pay it; but in Maſter *Witherings* time they were all punctually paid.

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This buſineſſe hath been referred to a Committee, to hear many pretended grievances and complaints, who have ſate above threeſcore times, have heard Councell and prooſes on both ſides, and notwithſtanding all thoſe clamours, it is humbly appealed unto that honourable Committee, whether any thing upon all thoſe hearings have been proved or voted againſt the ſaid *Witherings*, other than the procuring of the Carriers of *Ipſwich* and *Norwich* to be attached and impriſoned upon the then Secretaries Warrant, which is now under the judgement of the Honourable Houſe of Commons how far he is guilty of it.

FINIS.